

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 21, 2004

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2004

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 12, 2004

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1652**

**Introduced by Senator Murray**

February 20, 2004

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An act to add Section 25402.10 to the Public Resources Code, relating to solar energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1652, as amended, Murray. Residential solar energy systems.

Existing law requires a solar energy system to meet applicable standards and requirements imposed by state and local permitting authorities.

This bill would require, on and after January 1, 2006, at least 15% of all single-family residences, constructed as part of a development of at least 25 homes that is *intended or* offered for sale, to be constructed with a solar photovoltaic energy system for each unit. *The bill would require that percentage to increase by 10% each year until January 1, 2010.*

*The bill would exempt from the bill's requirements climate zones 1 and 16, as specified.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Air pollution is a serious and widespread public health and environmental problem in California, with economic ramifications.

(b) California has ongoing energy affordability and reliability issues. The construction of new centralized powerplants comes at a great cost to the state and to ratepayers in the form of increased air pollution, and expensive construction, permitting, and infrastructure costs.

(c) California currently relies on natural gas for the bulk of its electricity needs, and increasing energy demands put pressure on limited natural gas supplies and threaten rising costs.

(d) More than 150,000 homes will be built annually in California in the coming years, threatening energy reliability and affordability, and increasing air pollution.

(e) California has vast solar energy resources that can be harnessed to generate electricity and reduce the consumption of natural gas.

(f) Installing solar photovoltaic home energy systems on new homes can significantly improve air quality by offsetting energy otherwise provided by fossil-fuel powerplants and by preventing the need to build new fossil-fuel powerplants to meet growing energy needs.

(g) Increasing California's solar power market will also bring additional manufacturing, installation, and sales jobs to the state at a higher rate than natural gas powerplants.

(h) Ultraclean distributed generation, such as solar photovoltaic systems, benefits all ratepayers by preventing the need for expensive infrastructure associated with centralized powerplants.

(i) Installing solar energy systems during construction is a cost-effective way of realizing all of the benefits of this technology.

SEC. 2. Section 25402.10 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

25402.10. (a) For purposes of this section:

1 (1) “Solar photovoltaic system” means any photovoltaic solar  
2 collector or other photovoltaic solar energy device whose primary  
3 purpose is to provide for the collection, storage, and distribution  
4 of solar energy for electric generation.

5 (2) “Solar energy system” does not include an electric plant as  
6 defined by Section 217 of the Public Utilities Code.

7 (b) On and after January 1, 2006, a minimum of ~~15~~  
8 percent of single-family residences constructed as part of a  
9 development of at least 25 homes per project that is intended or  
10 offered for sale shall be constructed with solar photovoltaic energy  
11 systems that produce an average of at least two kilowatts  
12 alternating current of electrical power per residence. This  
13 minimum percentage of single-family residences shall increase by  
14 an additional ~~10~~ percent each year until January 1, 2010.

15 (c) Subdivision (b) shall not prevent an owner or developer  
16 from installing both solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems  
17 in excess of this minimum standard.

18 (d) *This section does not apply to climate zones 1 and 16, as*  
19 *defined by the commission in Section 101 of Subchapter 1 of Part*  
20 *6 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.*

21 SEC. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature to create an incentive  
22 to both promote the use of solar energy systems in new housing and  
23 reduce overall energy consumption from the grid by directing the  
24 State Energy Resources Conservation and Development  
25 Commission to partially count energy generation from solar  
26 energy systems towards the energy conservation compliance  
27 budget for a new home.

